

There is a pattern of assault on public interests under current conservative Republican domination of political leadership. Public lands, public education, public airwaves are all vulnerable to the private interests that Republican leadership of the Executive and Legislative branches of government, and conservative domination of the Judiciary. Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves. Even our military is increasingly dependent on private security consultants, as the Bush-Cheney foreign policy alienates our allies all over the world.

Public interest has to mean something again. We can start in the area of communications. Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.